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especially, to the gentle influence of the holy prelates, Mendoza, Talavera, and Cisneros, so that when "word was brought to the queen that trade was diminishing, yet she, esteeming little the loss of her revenues, and as great value the purity of her dominions, declared that, putting aside her own interests, she would seek to cleanse the land from the sin of heresy because she believed that she fulfilled God's service and her own". No particular comment is made on the fact that thus Isabel, who made Spain, at this moment started her downfall, depriving her of economic stability and her people of respect for industry, turning her over to the clergy who have continued to exploit her since. The advent of Columbus and the discovery of America are given their proper perspective in the larger study of Spain at the time of Isabel.

The third topic considered in this interesting sketch is the foreign policy of the Catholic monarchs, as shown, first, in their efforts to make Spain a world-power through the marriage alliance, and which succeeded in temporarily uniting Spain with Portugal, England, and Germany. The fact that this finally brought a Hapsburg ruler and a world-emperor to the Spanish throne is of course outside the scope of this book. The other direction of their foreign policy, or rather Ferdinand's, was in the Mediterranean, where he succeeded in outwitting France and bringing a large portion of Italy under his control, at the same time strengthening Spain's hold on the papacy. There are also chapters on Spanish literature and on the institutions and reforms inaugurated by Ferdinand and Isabella.

Possibly the most delightful feature of the book is its realistic portrayal of character. Especially is this to be appreciated in the chapters on the Church and Inquisition, where dry and forbidding prelates are shown quite intimately as human beings. It is indeed a service to the medieval period of Spanish history that someone has written a book which pulsates with human interest. There is nothing new in the volume; indeed there is much omitted; but it gives us again in live, interesting form, the story so entertainingly told by Prescott and Irving; and it is well re-told.

Luther's Correspondence and Other Contemporary Letters. Translated and Edited by PRESERVED SMITH and CHARLES M. JACOBS. Volume II., 1521-1530. (Philadelphia: Lutheran Publication Society. 1918. Pp. 568. \$3.50.)

SIX years ago (1913) Dr. Preserved Smith of Amherst College published the first volume of *Luther's Correspondence and other Contemporary Letters*, covering the period 1507-1521. He thereby performed a really invaluable service to every English-speaking student of general and church history, offering him for the first time in his vernacular the fundamental part of the history of the most momentous crisis in the annals of Europe as told by the participants and eye-witnesses themselves

in all the unreserve of private correspondence. Now the second volume has left the press. The labor of selection, translation, and editing is no longer in the hands of one man. More than half of this second volume is the work of the Rev. Professor Charles M. Jacobs of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Mt. Airy. This however by no means lessens the standard value of the work, as Charles Jacobs is well known as an entirely trustworthy translator of Luther and one of our best students of the history of the German Reformation; it rather guarantees a more rapid progress of the whole undertaking. The second volume extends over the years 1521-1530 and contains 399 pieces of Luther's correspondence and contemporary letters, nos. 478-875 of the whole work, together with two letters in the appendix. The principles of editing have justly remained the same; not only Luther's own letters are given but also the important ones addressed to him or treating of him. So we find letters of Emperor Charles V., King Henry VIII., Landgrave Philip of Hesse, George Duke of Saxony, the electors Frederick and John, Pope Adrian VI., Albert, cardinal archbishop of Mayence, Cardinal Wolsey, many letters of Erasmus, of Melancthon, etc. In selecting for this period the editors, of course, had to choose a much smaller proportion of the available letters than in the first volume, because the correspondence and influence of Luther between 1521 and 1530 had enormously widened and the remaining material is vastly larger. But the selection is made very wisely and circumspectly. It very seldom happens that a letter rightly expected is not reprinted. The translation is faithful and trustworthy. To give all necessary light for the comprehension of the text, foot-notes are added, containing explanations of allusions, corrections of mistakes, and short biographical notices of persons mentioned. Three appendixes offer unpublished texts (1, various readings of a letter of Henry VIII. to Luther; 2, a letter of Erasmus to Louis Ber; 3, a letter of Peter Albinianus Tretius to Luther), an excellent bibliography of epistles of dates contemporary with Luther, and errata and addenda. In the short introduction we take exception to the statement: "It seems that by a more liberal policy Erasmus might have been completely won." Here the authors fail to recognize the fundamental difference between Luther and Erasmus; Erasmus, in the last analysis, was morally and religiously a man of the Middle Ages while Luther ushered in the new era.

The work as a whole is an excellent "Enders" in English, though somewhat condensed, still in many ways supplemented and improved, a real credit to American scholarship.

M. REU.